

Message Text

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FOR: IOP/M; IPS, IBS, IAA

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SFC MEDIA REACTION

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SAMPLE HEADLINES OF THE WEEK FROM NIGERIAN PRESS:

A. "VIETNAMESE WEEP AS AMERICANS QUIT IN SHAME."

DAILY TIMES, MAY 1.

B. "VIETNAM: THE LAST DAYS OF AMERICA." SUNDAY

CHRONICLE, APRIL 27.

" US DEBACLE IN INDOCHINA." OBSERVER, APRIL 28.

IN HANDLIN OF WIRE COPY, IN COMMENTARIES AND EDITORIALS

NIGERIAN MEDIA STRONGLY CRITICIZED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN INDO-
CHINA, SCORNE U.S. FAILURE TO SUPPORT AN ALLY, AND SPECULATED
THAT U.S. MAY INTERVENE IN OTHER AREASAAPERHAPS IN AFRICA.

DAILY TIMES EDITORIAL MAY2 ("THE LESSONS OF VINWAR")

DREW ON THIEU'S STATEMENT THAT AMEI?"HAVE NOT GIVEN

US THE AID THEY PROMISED," TO SAY THAT "ONE COULD NOT FIND A
MORE APT EPITAPH TO THE NOTORIOUS 30-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN INVOLVE-
MENT IN INDOCHINA.

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"AMERICA'S HASTY WITHDRAWAL.. CAME IN THE WAKE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY'S DEMONSTRATION OF SUPREMACY AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DISCOVERY OF BETRAYAL AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. FOR, ALTHOUGH AMERICA PLEDGED TO FIGHT ON SOUTH VIETNAM'S SIDE AGAINST THE VIET CONG, IT SWALLOWED ITS WORDS IN THE FACE OF DOMESTIC PRESSURE, INEVITABLE POLITICAL CHANGES, AND HANOI'S MILITARY SUPERIORITY.....

"THE ENTIRE WORLD WELCOMES THE END OF HOSTILITIES IN INDOCHINA, AND HOPES AMERICA HAS LEARNED ITS LESSON--THAT THE DECISION TO GO COMMUNIST OR CAPITALIST LIES ULTIMATELY WITH THE VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES,

AND NOT WITH AMERICAN LIVE 5,000 MILES AWAY.. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD AS A VERY FINAL GESTURE, SIGNIFY ITS COMPLETE DISOWNMENT FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, NOT ONLY BY GRANTING AMNESTY TO ITS DRAFT DODGERS AND HELPING THE DISABLE VIETNAM VETERANS WITHIN ITS BORDERS BUT BY RETURNING THE WAR ORPHANS IT UPROOTED FORCEFULLY BACK TO THE LAND OF THEIR BIRTH."

UFICLE ARTICLE ("B" ABOVE) CONCLUDED: "THE QUESTIN NOW IS, HAS THE POLICY OF DOMINO BEEN ABANDONED BY THE UNITED STATES?

"IT DOES NOT SEEM THAT AMERICA WILL END ITS 'WORLD POLICE' ROLE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA. IF IT WILL NOT, THEN VIETNAM WILL ONLY HAVE A SHORT BREAK ONLY TO START AGAIN."

COLUMNIST AUSTINE OBOZUWA IN NIGERIAN OBSERVER ("C" ABOVE) CONCLUDED: "AS THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS UNDERGOING STRESSES IN INDO-CHINA, TURKEY, PORTUGAL, MIDDLE EAST ANE BLACK AFRICA, THE INDO-CHINE SHOCK IS A CONVENIENT BREAK FORA MORE REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF MANY OF THE FACTS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH FOR TOO LONG, HAS NOT TAKEN ACCTUNT OF THE CONTEMPPRARY WOGLD EVENTS...

"THE HEGEMONY OF CHINA MUST BE RECOGNIZED IN ASIA JUST AS THENPKS. AND THE SOVIET UNION HOLD PREDOMINANT AWAY IN WESTERN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA AND EASTERN EUROPE RESPECTIVELY."

RENAINSSANCE COMMENTARY APRIL 29 ("MESSAGE FROM VIETNAM") DESCRIBED NATIONAL SECURITY STUDY MEMORANDUM NO. 39 AS "WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT FOR THE WHITE MINORITY REGIMES WHO ARE SEEN AS THE ONLY AGENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF "CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE' IN THE AREA AND A BULWARK AGAINST COMMUNISM OR INTENSE ANTI-COLONIALISM," DREW AMONG OTHER CONCLUSIONS THAT:

"..AFTER FAILURE OF ITS GAMBLE IN INDO-CHINA, THE UNITED STATES MAY NOW DIRECT ITS ATTENTION TO AFRIK AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. NATHANIEL P. DAVIWHO) MASTERMINDED ONE ANTI-COMMUNIST "PACIFICATION" PROGRAM (IN GUATEMALA).. RESULTING IN THE DEATH

OF SOME 20,000 PEOPLE, AND IN CHILE IN 1973... AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS MAY PORTEND A NEW, SINISTER INTEREST IN AFRICA."

NIGERIAN HERAY 2 ("CIA AND THE THIRD WORLD") SAID:

"WITH US INFLUENCE DECLINING IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE WORLD.. AN ASTONISHING REPORT PREPARED FOR..(CIA) WILL SHOCK PEOPLE IN MANY COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE NEEDY DEVELOPING NATIONS. "THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT FOR THE US, THE WORLD'S LARGEST GRAIN EXPORTER, FOOD MAY BECOME THE TRUMP CARD IN ENIFG US GLOBAL INFLUENCE."

ARTICLE QUOTES STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO DANIEL MOYNIHAN, SECRETARY BUTZ, PRESIDENT FORD, OTHERS, ON U.S. FOOD AS A "WEAPON," SAYS: "THUS, FOOD CAN BE SEEN AS ANOTHER TOOL IN THE "DESTABILISING' ARSENAL OF U.S. POLICY MAKERS."

SUCH INFLAMMATORY HEADLINES AND COMMENTARIES, OF COURSE, OCCUPIED A RELATIVELY SMALL PORTION OF MEDIA SPACE. INTERNALLY PRESS PAID MORE ATTENTION TO GEN. GOWON'S TRIP TO THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING, TO A PILOT'S "WORK STOPPAGE" WHICH HAS KEPT NIGERIANIFCNX GROUNDED FOR OVER A WEEK, TO RISING PRICES AND INCREASING SHORTAGES-PARTICULARLY FOOD AND PETROL.

USIS PLACEMENT CONTINUED GOOD ON SUCH STORIES AS JUDGE CONSTANCE MOTLEY'S VISIT TO NIGERIA, THE TRIP TO A U.S. TRAINING CAMP OF SIX TOP YOUNG TENNIS STARS, AND THE RETURN OF NIGERIAN DRAMATIST-COMPOSER DURO LADIPO FROM WHAT HE TERMED A "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL" TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES AND DESCRIBED CULTURAL TIES LINKING NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES.
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